

332 COMMENTARY ON MACAULAY'S
HISTORY

meant to carry the negotiation is uncertain.
William discovered that he was plotting and on January
10, 1692, dismissed him from all his offices. Anne was very
naturally required by Mary to dismiss Lady
Marlborough as well,
and the Princess, declining to part with her
favourite, left
Whitehall and took up her residence at Sion
House.

Mary gives an account of Anne's refusing
to dismiss
Lady Marlborough :

When Lord Marlborough was put out, and
she was told
in all the gentle and kind ways that could be
thought on,
that she must part with his lady, she retired to
Sion and
shewed great passion and kindness for her,
and so much
indifference and coldness to me that it really
went to my
heart. But when I saw no kindness could
work upon her,
but afterwards when she had had time to
consider, and that
I did what I could towards a reconciliation
without effect,
it made me change quite and grow (at least
endeavour to
grow) as indifferent as she. But in all this I see
the hand of
God, and look on our disagreeing as a
punishment upon us
for the irregularity by us committed upon the
Revolution.
My husband did his duty and the nation did
theirs, and we
were to suffer it, and rejoice that it pleased
God to do what
he did. But as to our persons it is not as it
ought to be, tho'
it was unavoidable, and no doubt that it is a
just judgment
of God, but I trust the Church and nation
shall not suffer,
but that we in our private concerns and
persons may bear

the punishment as in this we do.¹

Mary is Macaulay's heroine, and although there is no reason to suppose that he exaggerates her virtues and charms, he seems to represent her too much as an early-Victorian rather than as a seventeenth-century lady. It is tempting to imagine that he saw in her the ideal submissive and admiring spouse he would have married if

¹ Doebner, pp. 45-6.